

§Appl. No. 10/017,393
Amdt. dated March 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of, December 23, 2004

REMARKS

New claims 20-23 have been added. Support for these claims is found in the specification, e.g., Page 21, line 15-Page 22, line 30; Original Claims 10 and 13. Rejoinder of these claims is respectfully requested. When a product claim is found allowable, applicant may present claims for rejoinder purposes directed to the process of making and/or using the patentable product by way of amendment. See, §M.P.E.P. 821.04.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to indicate that the sequence identity is along the nucleotide positions 103-1368 which is the coding sequence for H2R. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., in the sequence listing and on Page 10, line 26 of the application. (As shown in the sequence listing, the last coding codon is from 1366-1368 and the termination codon is from 1369-1371). This is not a response to any rejection (especially since these claims have already been indicated as "allowed"), but simply clarifies that the sequence identity is with respect to the coding region.

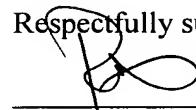
Claim 3 has been amended to indicate that the fragments are at least 25 nucleotides and can be used as a polymerase chain reaction primer. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, e.g., Original Claim 5; Page 11, lines 1-12.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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